

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested. Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

I. Status of the Claims

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 31-101, 156, 159, 162, 165, 168, 171, 174, 177-180 are pending in the application, with claims 31, 49, 68, and 85 being the independent claims. Claims 31, 33, 36, 38, 40, 49, 51, 54, 56, 58, 68, 70, 73, 75, 77, 85, 87, 90, 92, and 94 are hereby amended. Claims 154-155, 157-158, 160-161, 163-164, 166-167, 169-170, 172-173, and 175-176 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

II. The Amendment

Claims 31, 33, 36, 38, 40, 49, 51, 54, 56, 58, 68, 70, 73, 75, 77, 85, 87, 90, 92, and 94 have been amended to more particularly point out what Applicants regard as the invention. These claims recite that the claimed peptide variants have at least 95% identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in Fig. 19 and SEQ ID NO: 31 or have at least 95% identity to amino acids 22-235 of the amino acid sequence set forth in Fig. 19 and SEQ ID NO: 31, as found allowable by the Examiner.

The amendments to the claims do not introduce any new matter. Accordingly, entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

III. The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

At page 2 of the Office Action, claims 31, 33, 36,38, 40-49, 51, 54, 56, 58-68, 70, 73, 75, 77-85, 87, 90, 92, 94-101, 154-155, 157-158, 160-161, 163-164, 166-167, 169-170, 172-173, 175-176, and 178-180 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The Examiner maintains this rejection on the ground that the specification does not teach what specific residues can be replaced with what residues and have activity retained. However, the Examiner states that claims drawn to 95% identity to SEQ ID NO: 30 or 31 will be allowed. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants reiterate the same arguments raised in the previous Amendment and Reply to the Office Action of July 26, 2006. Nevertheless, solely to expedite prosecution, and not in acquiescence to the Examiner's rejection, Applicants have amended claims 31, 33, 36, 38, 40, 49, 51, 54, 56, 58, 68, 70, 73, 75, 77, 85, 87, 90, 92, and 94. As presently amended, the polypeptide variants or an enzyme preparation comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a cellulase have at least 95% identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in Figure 19 and SEQ ID NO: 31 or to amino acids 22-235 of the amino acid sequence set forth in Figure 19 and SEQ ID NO: 31. As indicated by the Examiner, the 95% identity is found allowable.

Accordingly, in view of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and objection.

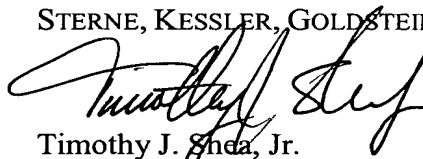
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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